AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

a processing device; and

a storage unit storing identification information and address information of a system of

billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, wherein

the processing device includes:

a communications process unit performing a communicating process through a network

with a user device and [[a]] the system of billing a user through a network for an amount, the

amount based on a predetermined total length of time;

a retrieving process unit retrieving the address information of the system corresponding

to identification information received from the user device, from [[a]] the storage unit;

an obtaining process unit obtaining billing charge information requested by the user from

the system with the address information retrieved by the retrieving process unit;

a transmitting process unit transmitting the billing charge information to the user device;

and

a payment process unit performing a payment by the retrieved system according to a

request for payment from the user device and transmitting a lock release request for releasing a

lock of the system with the retrieved address information to the system.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

a processing device; and

a storage unit storing identification information and address information of a system of

billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, wherein

the processing device includes:

a communications process unit performing a communicating process through a network

with a user device and [[a]] the system of billing a user through a network for an amount, the

amount based on a predetermined total length of time;

a retrieving process unit retrieving the address information of the system, corresponding

to identification information received from the user device or according to a request, from the

storage unit;

an obtaining process unit obtaining current use information from relating to a use of the

system with the address information retrieved by the retrieving process unit, from the system;

a receiving process unit receiving notification request timing information relating to a

timing of notifying the user device of the current use information; and

an information providing unit transmitting the obtained use information to the user device

according to the notification request timing information received from the user device and

transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the system with the retrieved

address information to the system.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The server according to claim 2, wherein when the payment is made in a pre-payment system for a predetermined time, a message is transmitted to the user device at any time before the predetermined time elapses.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A system use support method for a computer comprising a storage unit, ~~comprising~~ the computer performing:

~~transmitting~~ receiving [[an]] identification ~~number~~ information of a system of billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, and user information from a user device;

~~obtaining an address of a system of billing a user by a predetermined time corresponding to the identification number, obtaining use information from the system at the address, and adjusting a charge or providing information;~~

retrieving address information of the system, corresponding to the identification information received from the user device ~~or according to a request~~, from the storage unit;

obtaining current use information ~~from~~ relating to a use of the system ~~retrieved by the retrieving process unit~~ with the retrieved address information, from the system;

receiving notification ~~request~~ timing information relating to a timing of notifying the user

device of the current use information; and

transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification

~~request~~ timing information received from the user device; and

transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the system with the retrieved

address information to the system.

Claim 7 (Original): The method according to claim 6, wherein said system of billing a

user by a predetermined time is a parking meter, and the charge is a parking charge for use of the

parking meter.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program

used to direct a computer to perform the steps comprising:

performing a communicating process through a network with a user device and a system

~~of billing a user through a network for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total~~

~~length of time~~;

performing a payment by communicating with the system of billing a user by a

predetermined time, and obtaining charge information from the system through the network;

retrieving address information of the system, corresponding to identification information

received from the user device ~~or according to a request,~~ from a storage unit;

obtaining current use information ~~from~~ relating to a use of the system ~~retrieved by the retrieving process unit~~ with the address information, from the system;

receiving notification ~~request~~ timing information relating to a timing of notifying the user device of the current use information; and

transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification ~~request~~ timing information received from the user device; and

transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the system with the retrieved address information to the system.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer to perform the steps comprising:

performing a communicating process through a network with a user device and a system ~~of billing a user through a network for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time~~;

~~obtaining current use information from the system according to recorded information transmitted in advance from the user device or at a request from the user device, and transmitting the obtained use information to the user device;~~

retrieving address information of the system, corresponding to identification information received from the user device ~~or according to a request,~~ from a storage unit;

obtaining current use information ~~from~~ relating to a use of the system ~~retrieved by the retrieving process unit~~ with the retrieved address information, from the system;

receiving notification ~~request~~ timing information relating to a timing of notifying <u>the user</u>

<u>device of</u> the current use information; and

transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification

~~request~~ timing information received from the user device<u>; and</u>

<u>transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the system with the retrieved</u>

<u>address information to the system.</u>

Claim 10 (Original): The storage medium according to claim 8, wherein said system of

billing a user by a predetermined time is a parking meter, and the charge is a parking charge for

use of the parking meter.

Claim 11 (Original): The storage medium according to claim 9, wherein said system of

billing a user by a predetermined time is a parking meter, and the charge is a parking charge for

use of the parking meter.

Claim 12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

<u>a processing device; and</u>

a storage unit storing identification information and address information of a system of

billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, wherein

the processing device includes:

a communications process unit performing a communicating process with a user device

through a network;

an information providing unit obtaining use information about a user who uses a system

of billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time,

determining a transmission timing of a message according to the obtained use information, and

transmitting the message to the user device through the network with the transmission timing;

a payment unit for making a payment at a payment request from the user device;

a retrieving process unit retrieving the address information of the system, corresponding

to identification information received from the user device ~~or according to a request~~, from the

storage unit;

an obtaining process unit obtaining current use information ~~from~~ relating to a use of the

system with the address information retrieved by the retrieving process unit, from the system;

a receiving process unit receiving notification ~~request~~ timing information relating to a

timing of notifying the user device of the current use information; and

an information providing unit transmitting the obtained use information to the user device

according to the notification ~~request~~ timing information received from the user device and

transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the system with the retrieved

address information to the system.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program

used to direct a computer to perform the steps comprising:

performing a communicating process with a user device through a network;

obtaining use information about a user who uses a system of billing a user for an amount,

the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, determining a transmission timing of a

message according to the obtained use information, and transmitting the message to the user

device through the network with the transmission timing; and

making a payment at a payment request from the user device;

retrieving address information of the system, corresponding to identification information

received from the user device or according to a request, from a storage unit;

obtaining current use information from relating to a use of the system retrieved by the

retrieving process unit with the retrieved address information, from the system;

receiving notification request timing information relating to a timing of notifying the user

device of the current use information; and

transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification

request timing information received from the user device; and

transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the system with the retrieved

address information to the system.

Claim 16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

a processing device; and

a storage unit storing identification information and address information of a system of

billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, wherein

the processing device includes:

communications process means for performing a communicating process through a

network with a user device and [[a]] the system of billing a user an amount, the amount based on

a predetermined total length of time, through a network;

payment process means for performing a payment by communicating with the system of

billing a user for up to a predetermined total time, and obtaining charge information from the

system through the network;

a retrieving process unit retrieving the address information of the system, corresponding

to identification information received from the user device or according to a request, from the

storage unit;

an obtaining process unit obtaining current use information from relating to a use of the

system with the address information retrieved by the retrieving process unit, from the system;

a receiving process unit receiving notification request timing information relating to a

timing of notifying the user device of the current use information; and

an information providing unit transmitting the obtained use information to the user device

according to the notification request timing information received from the user device and

transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the system with the retrieved address

information to the system.